



## THE PURPOSE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper was begun by Christ himself in "the night in which he was betrayed." It holds a central place in the Lutheran Christian tradition, being one of only two sacraments\*\* recognized by the Lutheran faith, alongside Baptism. In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther writes, "... the Lord's Supper is given as...nourishment so that our faith may be refreshed and strengthened and that it may... become stronger and stronger."

Normally, the Lord's Supper is celebrated within the context of our worship together. However, with COVID-19 in our midst, this time is far from normal. With a concern for the safety of those most vulnerable, we are seeking creative ways to continue to receive our Lord through Holy Communion. Luther believed it was appropriate to move Holy Communion into the home when the church found itself in the midst of dire circumstances.

Please keep in mind that the Lord's Supper was intended to be observed in community worship as the body of Christ and so this is a temporary solution for most of us. When we are able to safely gather for worship together again, and if you are able to travel, we hope you and your family will join us in worship and at the Lord's Supper within our sanctuary.

# Celebrating the Lord's Supper\* with the People of Zion in the Time of COVID19



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Deerfield Beach, Florida

## FIRST THINGS

- Because we trust that God has given us the gift of Holy Communion for our benefit, we also trust that God will guide us in leading this service. If you stumble over the words, or make a mistake, don't worry! Correct yourself and continue with the service.
- Those who lead those who receive it are to have been baptized, as this is a meal for the baptized Children of God. If there is someone among you who is not baptized, but would like to participate in the Lord's Supper, they are welcome to come to the table for a blessing until a time for preparation and baptism can be arranged. (Please contact Pastor David Potter if you would like to speak about this.) A blessing could be the sign of the cross on their forehead with words such as "Jesus loves you and is with you all the time".
- Please note: Any leftover bread must be eaten either by the family or used to feed God's creation. Any remaining bread is **not** to be thrown away or saved for a later celebration of Holy Communion.
- If you have children: Include them as much as they are able. Let them hold the bread while the Words of Institution are being spoken. Let them give communion to family members. Additionally, if the child is baptized, there is no reason the child can't also receive Communion if the child wants to and the parents/guardians are in agreement.

## SETTING THE LORD'S TABLE

Clear a table to serve as a home altar. This could be a kitchen table, an end table in your living room, a kitchen island, or even a TV tray. Clean the surface of any dust or crumbs. You can place a cross or flowers on the table if you like. However, the most important thing to have on the table is the bread. (We believe that Christ is fully present in the bread alone, although when possible, we also receive the wine/grape juice.)

Light a candle to place on the table, if possible. This light symbolizes the presence of God among God's people. Even the preparation of the Lord's Supper is a prayerful and holy time.

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\***The Lord's Supper**, Holy Communion, Eucharist, and Sacrament of the Altar (or Table) are terms identifying the same event, revealing different aspects to provide more meaning for us.

\*\*In the Lutheran tradition, **sacraments** are commanded by Christ Jesus, use one or more earthly elements (water for Baptism and bread and wine for Holy Communion), and are vehicles for God's grace and the forgiveness of sins.

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## A HOME LITURGY FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Adapted from "Spirit and Life," provided to the people of the Northwest Intermountain Synod, ELCA, by Rev. Kristen E.M. Kuempel, Bishop.  
Communion liturgy adapted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and Pastoral Care Resources from Augsburg Fortress.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Family: And also with you.**

Leader: When our congregation gathered for Holy Communion with all the saints from every time and place, we heard again the story of God's mighty actions and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The holy meal of the Lord's Supper was shared. Now we share this Word of life, and this bread of blessing, that we may share in these same gifts and be strengthened by being joined as one in Christ, even though we gather separately for a time.

### CONFESSIOIN & FORGIVENESS

Leader: Let us confess our sins, all that we have done to hurt each other and ourselves, in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause for a moment of reflection.)*

**All: Most merciful God, We confess that we have messed up. With our words and our hands, we have not been kind to others or to our own selves. We are hopeless without your love. We are afraid of what could happen, so we forget that you are with us all the time to give us peace. We spend the night with worry instead of prayer. Forgive us again and fill us up with your abundant mercy.**

Leader: God is rich in mercy and love. No matter how much you mess up every day, God's love never runs out. Just as God's love is for you, so is the meal set before us. You are forgiven and ready to feast at the table, in the name of the One who died to set you free from the power of sin, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### GOD'S WORD

*You may read one or more of the readings from the Scripture insert provided.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Share the bread with each person, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you." For those people who do not yet receive Communion, you can offer a simple blessing such as, "The love of Jesus surround you always." or "Remember Jesus loves you and is with you all the time."*

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**All: Amen!**

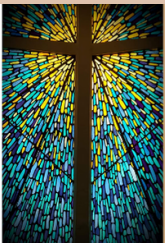
### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Life-giving God,

**All: in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people and free us from fear. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

# Join Us

[www.zion-lutheran.org](http://www.zion-lutheran.org)



**Sunday  
Worship**  
11:00 a.m.  
Facebook Live

**Monday @  
9:59 a.m.**

Do you know where your spirit is?  
Join Pastor David Potter  
for Prayer & Reflection  
on Facebook Live

**Prayer at the  
End of the Day**

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.  
with Cantor Kurt Schmidt  
Facebook Live